

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/726,072

Examiner

Minh Dieu Nguyen

Applicant(s)

JEMES ET AL.

Art Unit

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/7/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-8,10-22,24,25,27-33,48 and 49.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ashok K. Mannava on 3/28/07.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, the paragraph

"a plurality of network bubbles, each network bubble having a plurality of bubble partitions, each bubble partition having at least one network device configured to transmit and receive data, and"

has been changed to

--a plurality of network bubbles, each network bubble having a plurality of bubble partitions, each bubble partition having at least one network device configured to transmit and receive data, and wherein each of the plurality of bubble partitions is connected to at least two network control point devices to achieve high availability in the case of a failed interface or network control point device;--

In claim 9, the paragraph

"(Original)"

has been changed to

--(Canceled)—

In claim 17, the paragraph

“a first and second network bubble, each network bubble having a distinct network security policy and a plurality of bubble partitions, each bubble partition having a plurality of network devices having unrestricted network access with each other and configured to transmit and receive data;”

has been changed to

--a first and second network bubble, each network bubble having a distinct network security policy and a plurality of bubble partitions, each bubble partition having a plurality of network devices having unrestricted network access with each other and configured to transmit and receive data, wherein each of the plurality of bubble partitions is connected to at least two network control point devices to achieve high availability in the case of a failed interface or network control point device;--

In claim 26, the paragraph

“(Original)”

has been changed to

--(Canceled)—

Allowable Subject Matter

3. This action is in response to the communication dated 2/7/2007 with the amendments to claims 1, 17, 33 and 48, the cancellation of claims 2 and 23 and the addition of claim 49.

4. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-22, 24-25, 27-33 and 48-49 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to a method of implementing network security policies on a common network infrastructure. Different network security architectures such as the internal, external and DMZ architecture (see specification, page 3, line 4 – page 4, line 6), the concentric rings of network access control architecture (see specification, page 4, lines 7-28) are implemented with their drawbacks and limitations. According to the invention, a network security architecture can be made more efficient and overcome the above drawbacks and limitations (i.e. a plurality of network bubbles, each network bubble having a plurality of bubble partitions, each bubble partition having at least one network device configured to transmit and receive data, and wherein each of the plurality of bubble partitions is connected to at least two network control point devices to achieve high availability in the case of a failed interface or network control point device; all of the network devices corresponding to the same respective network bubble having unrestricted network access with each other and the same network security policy that controls data movement between the network devices of different network bubbles, and an inter-bubble device connecting the first and second network bubbles to one another and enforcing the network security policy of the first and second

network bubbles, wherein the security policy of the first network bubble is distinct from the security of the second network bubble" in claims 1 and 17).

The closest prior arts, Nessel et al. (5,968,176), Segal (6,345,299), Williams (6,304,973) and Wesinger, Jr. et al. (6,052,788) fail to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dieu Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3873.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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